

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE JORDAN VALLEY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

(Unapproved and subject to change)
Held on November 8, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board Conservation Committee of the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District (JVWCD or District) was held on Monday, November 8, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at the District office located at 8215 South 1300 West, West Jordan, Utah.

This meeting was conducted electronically in accordance with the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act (Utah Code Ann. (1953) §§ 52-4-1 et seq.) and Chapter 7.12 of the Administrative Policy and Procedures Manual ("Electronic Meetings").

Trustees Present:

Lyle C. Summers, Conservation Committee Chair
Karen Lang
Corey L. Rushton
Greg R. Christensen
Barbara Townsend (electronic)
Sherrie L. Ohrn
John H. Taylor (electronic)
Reed Gibby
Dawn R. Ramsey joined at 3:02 pm

Trustees Not Present:

Others Present

Staff Present:

Bart Forsyth, General Manager/CEO
Dave Martin, CFO/Treasurer
Alan Packard, Assistant General Manager
Shazelle Terry, Assistant General Manager
Matt Olsen, Assistant General Manager
Jason Brown, Information Systems Department Manager
Martin Feil, Database Administrator (electronic)
Reid Lewis, General Counsel
Kurt Ashworth, Human Resources Manager
Brian McCleary, Controller
Brian Callister, Maintenance Department Manager
Gordon Batt, Operations Department Manager
Todd Schultz, Analytics & Outreach Manager
Linda Townes, Public Information Manager
Beverly Parry, Executive Assistant
Jessica Morgan, Administrative Assistant

Courtney Brown, Conservation Programs Manager
Shane Swensen, Engineering Department Manager
Clifton Smith, Business Data Analyst (electronic)
Shaun Moser, Conservation Garden Park Manager
Bailey Petty, Conservation Coordinator
Cynthia Bee, Outreach Coordinator (electronic)
Mindy Keeling, Administrative Assistant (electronic)
Amanda Strack, Conservation Coordinator
Megan Jenkins, Marketing Specialist (electronic)

The meeting was brought to order at 3:00 p.m. by Mr. Lyle Summers.

Approval of the minutes of the Conservation Committee meeting held October 12, 2021

Mr. Summers asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2021 Conservation Committee meeting. Ms. Karen Lang moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Greg Christensen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as follows:

Mr. Lyle Summers – aye

Mr. Reed Gibby – aye

Mr. Corey Rushton – aye

Ms. Dawn Ramsey – not present

Ms. Karen Lang – aye

Ms. Sherrie Ohrn – aye

Mr. Greg Christensen – aye

Mr. John Taylor – aye

Ms. Barbara Townsend – aye

Public Comments

No public comments.

Share analysis of actual water savings from Locascapes® Rewards participants

Mr. Todd Schultz reported on the results of a study by District staff to determine water savings from actual Locascapes Rewards program participants. The study incorporated outdoor water usage data from four accounts in the District's retail service area. Each account was evaluated to determine how much water was used before and after the Locascapes installation. An estimate was also provided that showed how much water would be used if the landscape conversion never occurred. The accounts were also compared to other water user groups: 1) high water users using more than 120% of need, 2) average water users using between 80% and 120% of need, and 3) low water users using less than 80% of need. Inches of water applied was the measurement used for most of the analyses.

Mr. Christensen asked for clarification on the inches of water used in the analysis. Mr. Schultz responded that the water usage is normalized by the inches of irrigation applied per square foot of the landscaped area, making it possible to compare use across multiple landscapes.

Mr. Schultz then shared the study results, which showed that water use was reduced by approximately 50% in landscapes that converted to a LocalScape. When compared to the other water user groups, these landscapes used around 60% less water than high water users and 30% to 40% less water than normal water users. Additionally, the study showed that the converted landscapes use approximately the same amount of water as low water users.

Mr. Taylor asked what defines a low water user. Mr. Schultz responded that a low water user is someone using below 80% of the estimated need, with the estimated need being based on total landscaped area and weather conditions. Mr. Matt Olsen further clarified that low water users typically have landscapes that are underwatered and that do not support plant life.

Mr. Gibby asked for an example of the lowest water use among residential users. Mr. Schultz explained the Water Use Ratio (actual use divided by estimated need) indicates that there are a number of users who fall below 50% of estimated use and essentially do not water outdoors.

Mr. Schultz then discussed plans to expand the study to the entire wholesale service area as the data becomes available.

Mr. Rushton suggested staff further evaluate how well LocalScapes are maintained given that low water use landscapes and LocalScapes use approximately the same amount of water. Ms. Ramsey suggested that LocalScapes can be promoted to improve underwatered and unmaintained landscapes without increasing water use.

Discuss Ivory Homes participation in the Homebuilder Rewards Program

Mr. Olsen introduced the topic by describing how Ivory Homes is an active participant in the LocalScapes Homebuilder Rewards program and recently submitted fifty-five landscapes for inspection. The projects are from four separate subdivisions with a total landscaped area of 179,213 square feet, that will lead to an estimated annual water savings of 2.4 million gallons. Each landscape was inspected independently which resulted in a total rebate amount of \$88,226.74. The expenditure will be brought to the Board for approval on Wednesday because it is over \$50,000.

Ms. Ohrn asked if there is an estimated cost savings amount that corresponds with gallons of water saved. Mr. Olsen responded that generally conservation programs are evaluated by the cost per acre-foot of water saved, which allows for a better comparison with future water supply projects. Mr. Bart Forsyth stated that the price of developing new water exceeds the estimated cost per acre-foot of water savings resulting from this program.

Mr. Rushton inquired about when waterwise landscaping will no longer need to be incentivized as it becomes the new normal. Mr. Olsen responded that this idea is being continually evaluated by staff. JWCD's Water Efficiency Standards ("Standards") are intended to further promote this and will lead to significant cost savings.

Ms. Ramsey suggested staff increase focus on Member Agencies who have not yet adopted the Standards to further reduce the need for costly water conservation programs.

Discuss Supplemental Member Agency Grant Program applications from Herriman City and the City of South Jordan

Mr. Olsen explained that the Member Agency Grant Program was extended to provide additional resources to temporarily offset costs or assist in implementation of the Standards. Grant funding examples include the following: 1) additional staffing requirements, 2) consulting or professional services, 3) supporting software or equipment, and 4) JVVCD staff assistance for training, plan reviews, and inspection services. Herriman City and the City of South Jordan are requesting funds for new water conservation positions to implement and enforce the Standards. The duties of both positions will include new development landscape plan review, inspection, compliance, and conservation programs. Herriman is requesting funding in the amount of \$52,500. South Jordan is requesting funding in the amount of \$68,000. Funding for both cities will be provided through the end of the 2021/2022 fiscal year, at which time the cities can reapply for additional funding through the grant program.

Mr. Christensen asked if the District has a method for ensuring the funding is being used as outlined in the agreement. Mr. Olsen responded that the funding agreement includes language for the use of funding. Additionally, prior to payment, the Member Agency must certify that the work was performed per the agreement terms.

Mr. Rushton pointed out that these new positions include detailed job descriptions that outline duties consistent with the requirements of the program. Ms. Ramsey also stated that a Member Agency's compliance with the Standards would not be possible without the focused work of the new positions.

Reporting Items

The reporting items were reviewed by Mr. Courtney Brown and are included in the packet as follows:

- a. Localscapes® Status Report
- b. 2021 Garden Education Programs Report
- c. 2021 Landscape Leadership Grant Update – Brief updates were provided for active projects that are nearing completion.
- d. 2021 Utah Water Savers Program Update – There are a significant amount of completed projects included in the packet.
- e. 2021 Homebuilder Rewards Update
- f. Member Agency Grant Program Update
- g. Fundraising Progress Report

h. Foundation Activities Report

Adjourn

Mr. Summers asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Ohrn moved to adjourn. Mr. Gibby seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Lyle C. Summers, Conservation Committee Chair Date

Matthew D. Olsen, Assistant General Manager Date